

THE PASSAGE OF A BILL THROUGH CONGRESS

INTRODUCTION

1. Member of one house of Congress introduces bill.

COMMITTEE ACTION

2. Bill is referred to a committee of that house.

3. Committee decides to consider bill.

or

3. Committee decides to kill bill.

4. Committee or subcommittee holds hearing on bill.

5. Committee votes to report the bill out to the house.

or

5. Committee votes to kill bill.

FLOOR ACTION

6. Bill is debated.

7. Majority of the house votes in favor of the bill.

or

7. Majority of the house votes against the bill.

8. Bill is sent to the other house, which goes through Steps 1–7.

9. Bill is referred to conference committee to work out differences in House and Senate versions of bill.

10. Both houses vote to approve bill and send bill to President.

or

10. One or both houses vote against bill.

ENACTMENT

11. President signs bill or allows bill to become law without signing it.

or

11. President vetoes bill.

12. Both houses vote to override President's veto.

or

12. One or both houses fail to override President's veto.